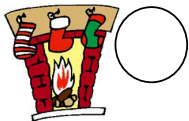




CHRISTMAS AROUND THE WORLD

Read the text and number the pictures



Portugal

In Portugal, the **Christmas tree (1)** may be a natural pine-tree or artificial one. It is decorated with **stars (2)**, little balls, collared electrical **lights (3)**.

People sing Christmas songs like "Happy Christmas", "Silent Night", "White Christmas",...

The traditional food is boiled codfish in Christmas supper and roasted turkey at Christmas lunch on December 25.

People decorate their home with **holly(4)** and decorative **paper ribbon(5)**. We make beautiful settings with dry flowers, **candles(6)**, and we open the presents at midnight.

We can't forget Christmas **candies(7)** which are delicious.

Canada

Canadians decorate a pine tree with ornaments representing Christmas, buy or make each other presents that get wrapped in wrapping paper to be put under the tree so they can be opened on Christmas Day. **Santa Claus(8)** is the imaginary person that little kids like to believe in who brings the presents. You aren't supposed to know what you're going to get, so that is part of the fun of Christmas Day. On Christmas Eve, December 24th, there is usually a turkey dinner and in the middle of the night, Santa Claus is said to come down the chimney and place the presents under the tree.

Japan

Japanese celebrate the New Year. Early in the morning they go to the beach and watch the sunrise. They visit their grandparents. Girls and boys wear kimono. They eat a special kinds of sushi and sashimi and rice cakes called mochi. The shops all have special toys and candy for the children to buy. Aunts and uncles and grandparents give children pocket money to spend at the shops. There are a lot of special TV programs.

New Zealand

In New Zealand Christmases are extremely hot and sunny. They eat a lot of different foods. They like to have steaks and chickens cooked on the barbecue, and salads. People decorate a tree with electric lights, coloured and white. They open the gifts on Christmas morning.



Russia

Most Christian Russians belong to the Eastern Orthodox Church, and it is customary to fast until after the first church service on Christmas Eve. Christmas Eve dinner is meatless but festive. The most important ingredient is a special porridge called kutya. It is made of wheat berries or other grains which symbolize hope and immortality, and honey and poppy seeds which ensure happiness, success, and untroubled rest. A ceremony involving the blessing of the home is frequently observed. A priest visits the home accompanied by boys carrying vessels of holy water, and a little water is sprinkled in each room. The kutya is eaten from a common dish to symbolize unity.

USA

In USA people use mostly pine trees for Christmas trees. They decorate them with lights, ornaments(9) and a star or an angel(10) on the top. They usually put the presents under it. It is fun to decorate the Christmas tree. Sometimes people even have miniature ones to put in other places. People eat ham, turkey, gravy, dressing, candied yams, rolls, egg nog, devilled eggs, collards, tea, pastry, snap beans, corn on the cob and corn bread. After dinner, the gifts are opened. Then they eat cookies(11), candies, cakes (fruit cake and ice box cake), sweet potato pie, candy canes, fudge, gingerbread houses and pecan pie.

England

On the 24th of December everybody decorates a Christmas-tree with all different kinds of things. Family members get each other two small presents (on the 24th). And then in the evening they hang their stockings(12) up by the fireplace(13). Many people go to church. When they come back they like to eat goose, and the children drink children's-whisky. And next morning people get their presents. It's Father Christmas who brings them.

Brazil

Brazilians are a mix of people from many parts of the world, and as a former Portuguese colony, they have many Christmas customs which originate from this heritage.

One tradition is to create a nativity scene (14) or Presépio. The word originates from the Hebrew word "presepium" which means the bed of straw upon which Jesus first slept in Bethlehem.

People also decorate trees with ornaments and bells(15).

A huge Christmas dinner, unusual in the hot summertime, includes turkey, ham, colored rice, and wonderful vegetable and fruit dishes.

Decorations include fresh flowers picked from the garden. Fireworks go off in the skies over the cities and huge Christmas "trees" of electric lights can be seen against the night skies in major cities such as Brasilia, San Paolo, and Rio de Janeiro.

China

Christians in China celebrate by lighting their houses with beautiful paper lanterns and decorating their Christmas trees, which they call "Trees of Light," with paper chains, paper flowers, and paper lanterns. Chinese children hang muslin stockings and await a visit from Santa Claus., whom they call Dun Che Lao Ren (dwyen-chuh-lau-oh-run) which means "Christmas Old Man."

India

Christians in India decorate mango or banana trees at Christmas time. Sometimes they also decorate their houses with mango leaves. In some parts of India, small clay oil-burning lamps are used as Christmas decorations; they are placed on the edges of flat roofs and on the tops of walls. Churches are decorated with poinsettias(16) and lit with candles for the Christmas Evening service.

Iran

Iran, formerly Persia, is the land where the **Three Wise men(17)** are believed to have lived when Jesus was born. Today Christians in Iran begin fasting from animal products on December 1. This is called "Little Fast." After Church service of December 25 they enjoy Christmas dinner which they call "Little Feast." A traditional dish is a chicken stew called harasa. Gifts are generally not exchanged but children get new clothes which they wear proudly on Christmas Day.

How does each country celebrate Christmas? What do they have in common?

	decorated Charismas tree	meal	religious ceremony	lights	presents
Portugal	x	x	x	x	x
Canada					
Japan					
New Zeeland					
Russia					
USA					
England					
Brazil					
China					
India					
Iran					

Write a short paragraph about how you celebrate Christmas.